

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

**Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

(Rev. 09-27-01)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) The rubber extruding method according to [any of claims 1 to 4,] claim 1, wherein a preformer is disposed adjacent to said die plate on the upstream side thereof,

said preformer has a receiving port receiving rubber from said extruder,

a sending port feeding the rubber into said inflow port of said die plate and

an intermediate flow path connecting said receiving port and said sending port therebetween, and

a shape of said receiving port is close to a shape of said discharge port of said die plate.

6. (Amended) The rubber extruding method according to [any of claims 1 to 5,] claim 1, wherein said rubber extruded intermediate is a tread rubber for a tire.

8. (Amended) The rubber extruding apparatus according to [claims] claim 7, wherein each extruding speed of said rubber

extruded intermediate is made uniform at positions along a width direction thereof.

11. (Amended) The rubber extruding apparatus according to [any of claims 7 to 10,] claim 7, wherein a preformer is disposed adjacent to said die plate on the upstream side thereof,

said preformer has a receiving port receiving rubber from said extruder,

a sending port feeding the rubber into said inflow port of said die plate and

an intermediate flow path connecting said receiving port and said sending port therebetween, and

a shape of said receiving port is close to a shape of said discharge port of said die plate.

12. (Amended) The rubber extruding method according to [any of claims 7 to 11,] claim 7, wherein said rubber extruded intermediate is a tread rubber for a tire.

13. (Amended) The rubber extruding apparatus according to [any of claims 7 to 12,] claim 7, comprising a feed means feeding said rubber extruded intermediate to a drum for making a raw tire.